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UNCLAS MANAMA 000688

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: STANDING UP EMBASSY BAGHDAD: BAHRAIN NOT  
FOLLOWING SUIT

REF: STATE 89241

1. We reviewed ref on May 8 with Bahraini MFA Assistant Undersecretary (Assistant Secretary-equivalent) for Bilateral Affairs and on May 11 with the Bahraini MFA Minister of State. The Bahraini officials reiterated broad Bahraini support for American efforts to stabilize Iraq. Bahrain does not, however, plan to upgrade the status of its Embassy in Baghdad. The Minister of State said there is a full-time Bahraini diplomat at the Embassy working with local staff. Manama has no plans to add staff in the foreseeable future. The MinState said that for the MFA perceives that the security situation in Baghdad does not permit Bahrain to increase the size of its Embassy there. He added that he and some other MFA officials have urged the Bahraini diplomat in Baghdad to come home, but so far the diplomat prefers to stay because his children are Iraqis settled in Baghdad.  
FORD